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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Sociological and Political Conditions in USSR.	(INTERVIEWER) PORTZ, Werner (FN)	(EDITOR) CANTOR
AREA REPORTED ON USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW USAF	
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PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt Col, USAF	SOURCE 272839	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) (52A-5058)		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.) A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: 1. SOURCE was born in TRIER (4945N-0638E), West Germany on 8 Dec 1920. He had 11 years education and worked as a banking apprentice in a local bank house. SOURCE spoke fair English and French and had a basic knowledge of Latin. It is emphasized by this interviewer that SOURCE was of far above average intelligence and manners. During the time SOURCE was confined in various Russian labor camps he acquired the Russian language almost to a state of perfection as he had been living in such camps over long periods as the only German among Russian nationals. 2. From Aug 45 till Jun 47 SOURCE was confined in a PW labor camp in the greater area of BAKU (4024N-4950E). SOURCE recalled the number of this camp as 6628 was however not very sure about it. He had frequent contact with Russian civilians and also Russian nationals confined in penal camps located within this area. As SOURCE seemed to be gifted to acquire languages he happened to converse with Russian nationals more frequently than any of his comrades. It was the opinion of this interviewer that SOURCE did not preach NAZI-ideologies but put more emphasis on Christian problems as SOURCE himself was the son of a strong Catholic family. He remarked during interview, that his words must have been misinterpreted by just a few of his listeners as SOURCE was jailed in Jun 47 and immediately sent to the MVD prison in BAKU. He was tried in Nov 47 and sentenced to eight years hard labor under Para UKAS 43 for "grave crimes against peace and humanity". During his confinement in the MVD prison BAKU SOURCE had now and again contact with Russian nationals awaiting trial. From Dec 47 until Nov 48, SOURCE was confined in several penal camps within the penal area of SUKABESVODNJA, 200 miles east of GORKIY (5615N-4400E). SOURCE was confined in the following listed penal camps: 8th COMMANDIROVKA/ 8th LAGPUNKT, a sub-camp of the camp 8th LAGPUNKT. 8th LAGPUNKT, 2nd SILCHOSE, 10th LAGPUNKT. Throughout this period SOURCE was the only German among Russian nationals and nationals of countries other than Russia. From Nov 48 until Aug 50 he was confined in penal camps within the area of VORKUTA (6730N-6400E). Here SOURCE found several German PWs also sentenced to long term penalties for similar reasons. In Aug 50 SOURCE was transferred to a PW penal camp in the area of STALINGRAD (4842N-4430E). SOURCE recalled the number of the camp as 4376/6. Only German PWs were confined here. SOURCE worked with numerous other German PWs together with Russian nationals on housing projects within the urban area of STALINGRAD. Prior to the date of transfer SOURCE was notified, that he would be sent to a PW camp where he could live among his comrades, furthermore he was given a three-month probationary period where he would be closely supervised for good talking to people, whom he thought belonged to the two groups mentioned last, No sometimes astonished him. SOURCE believed that the majority of the Russian population was opposed to the Soviet regime but tried hard to avoid any reactions which might lead informants to the conclusion, that they were enemies. Approximately 50% of the Jewish population must be considered strong enemies of the regime due to the large number of Jews confined in hard labor camps for political reasons. The rest belonged to the intelligentsia who either supported this regime for Union believed DAD words of LEVIN who declared, that there will be no racial discrimination USAFENA entry. Due to the fact that a large number of Jewish people were wealthy and had the opportunity to study, they were found in high positions as scientists, technicians, doctors or in the government. In the		
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Latvians, Estonians, and a large number of East German females deported to the USSR and confined in labor camps.

E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

23. SOURCE named the following labor camps in which he personally confined or knew about their existence:

1. Penal area of SUCHABESVODNJA, located about 200 miles east of GORKIY. Date of observations was Dec 47 until Nov 48. 8th Commandirovka, 8th LAGPUNKT, 300 males, generally Ukrainians, confined for political reasons. 8th LAGPUNKT, 1,000 males, Ukrainians, Jews, Lithuanians, confined for political reasons, about 10% criminals. 2nd LICHOSE (Convalescent), 1,200 males and females, Ukrainians, German PWs, Jews, Georgians, Armenians, confined for political reasons, about 20% criminals. 3rd BOLNIZA (TB Convalescent), 1,200 males and females, Ukrainians, German PWs, Jews, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, and Crimean Tartars, confined for political reasons, about 20% criminals. 10th LAGPUNKT, about 800 families with children of various nationalities, confined for political reasons, only camp administration personnel were criminals.
2. Penal Area of VORKUTA. Date of observation was Nov 48 till Aug 50. Transit camp, 700 males and females, various nationalities, confined for political reasons, only camp administration personnel criminals. 8th SCHACHT (mining area), 3,000 to 4,000 males and females, confined for political and criminal reasons. Tile fcty: 2,000 males and females, confined for political and criminal reasons, mixed nationalities.

SOURCE estimated that about 25 to 30 labor camps existed within the penal area of SUCHABESVODNJA. About 30 labor camps existed within the area of VORKUTA which were all located within coal mines. SOURCE recalled the following coal mines operated by prisoners: SCHACHT 1 (kapita), SCHACHT 9, SCHACHT 11, SCHACHT 40, SCHACHT 41. A large female labor camp existed near ASBEST which housed about 5,000 to 6,000 females of all ages.

24. SOURCE met an American graduate engineer in the 8th SCHACHT near VORKUTA. He told SOURCE that he was arrested in ARKHANGELSK (6433N-4032E) and sentenced for espionage. SOURCE could not recall his name. About 40 years old, fair complexion, brown hair, rather tall. Was treated very well and was never assigned to any work squads.

25. Political prisoners were removed from administrative positions in labor camps at the beginning of 1949 and were replaced by criminals. Criminals not assigned to any administrative positions were separated from the political prisoners and transferred to unknown destinations. Until 1949 political prisoners were paid for their work, since than coupons for additional food and cigarettes were issued instead. Political labor camps were declared "Regime Camps".

26. SOURCE met a Russian national in the 2nd SILCHOSE near SUCHABESVODNJA whose name was SAVCHANDROV, Alex. He was about 35 years old and was formerly a resident of MOSCOW (5545N-3735E). He told SOURCE that he deserted the retreating Soviet Army near SMOLENSK (5447N-3203E) because of the shooting of the Polish officers in the forest of KATYN (5444N-3146E).

27. SOURCE never heard Russian civilians mention the Voice of America programs.

31. SOURCE believed that the Russian population was informed about the 17 Jun 53 riots in the SZG by Soviet radio broadcasts and daily newspapers only. He met no one who told SOURCE that he listened to foreign broadcasts.

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